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SPRING...

FIFTH ANNUAL CATALOGUE



OF CHOICE

Strawberry
... Plants ...

PROPERLY DUG AND PACKED

....AND....

SAFE ARRIVAL GUARANTEED.

GROWN AND FOR SALE BY

B. KING, : : Tewksbury, Mass.

PEERLESS PRINT, 25 ARCH ST., BOSTON.

I HAVE pleasure in again presenting to my many friends and patrons my annual descriptive Price-list of Strawberry Plants. For nearly a quarter of a century, the growing of strawberries for market has been my specialty; selling some plants each season. But for the last five years the growing of plants has been given the first consideration with increased sales every year. Last season I was unable to fill many orders, but this season I have nearly double the plants I had last year, and therefore I am in better condition to serve all who send orders to me. Still I would impress on you the necessity of sending your orders early while the stock is complete.

My stock of plants this year, is grown on good strawberry land and is first-class in every respect; I will guarantee them so. All young and thrifty, never having fruited.

I do not claim that I have the only good plants on the market, but I do claim to have as good as any other dealer.

Some have sent to me for plants, saying I have concluded to give you a part of my order but I am afraid your plants cannot be good, you are selling them so low. On the arrival of the plants I have invariably got an acknowledgement that your plants are the best I ever received; sorry I did not get them all from you.

I have no cheap plants to sell, but the best of plants cheap. All the varieties in this catalogue are growing on my place. I do not buy to sell again, neither do I employ agents, but I sell direct to the grower, giving him the lowest prices possible for good stock, and saving him the agents profit.

Space in this catalogue is so limited to give directions for cultivation; questions pertaining to such will be cheerfully answered.

All Orders, no matter how small, will have my best attention, and will be packed in the best shape that years of experience have proved correct.

All Express Companies carry nursery stock at twenty per cent. discount from regular rates, and all patrons will get the benefit of those reduced rates.

No Substitution. When I cannot supply the variety ordered, I will return the money, unless requested to substitute some other variety.

If selection is left to me, which is often done, I will give them the best, for once a customer, always a customer.

My prices are as low as it is possible to sell plants true to name, properly dug and packed. I commence to ship as soon as the season will admit, taking the plants directly from the ground.

How to remit. Post Office Money Orders on Tewksbury; American Express Co. Order; or Registered Letter. Stamps taken for fractional part of a dollar, one or two cents preferred.

Address all letters to

B. KING, Tewksbury, Mass.

Prices named are for plants packed and delivered at the Express Office here. Terms cash before shipment. If to be sent by mail add 20 cents per 100 plants; at dozen rates they will be sent without extra charge; 50 at 100 rates; 500 at 1000 rates.

Those varieties marked (P) are pistillate and need some staminate, or kind marked (S) set near them about one row in four.

* J. H. Black Son & Co's., *

New Pedigree Strawberries.



I have them growing on my place but have not fruited them, and a finer lot of plants I have never had the pleasure of seeing. They cost quite a sum of money but there is not much risk in trying them when they have the indorsement of one of the best and most independent agricultural papers in the country I would advise all to try them. Here is what they say of them.

We have chosen to develop a bright clean coloring in our berries with distinct deep set seeds without green tips and with large green calyx, and the result has been most pleasing. In uniformly large size, regularity of shape and firmness, our berries are ahead of all others.

In quality some of the list are better than others, but none are surpassed by any of the market berries of the present time. Most of our efforts have been directed toward developing very late varieties, and what we now offer run from late to very late with but one exception, and that, as you will note, is a midseason to late variety :

We wish to impress on your mind that we are offering you something which we have fully tested on low, high, light, heavy and poor ground, and which you need not hesitate one moment to buy, but can purchase with full confidence and our assurance that they will surpass anything you have ever fruited before.

Carrie Silvers. This variety was sent to the Rural New Yorker as Carrie, under which name they tested it. There being another Carrie strawberry, and fearing confusion, we changed it by adding Silvers.

This variety was the result of crossing with Sharpless a seedling of Warfield fertilized by Parker Earle.

Plant and foliage strong, vigorous and healthy ; flower imperfect ; enormously productive ; berry large, bright red, good quality and firm.

The Rural New Yorker on January 14, 1899, in answer to an inquiry says of Carrie Silvers :

"A Canadian reader says that this variety is represented by some growers as an improved Haverland, and if it is an improvement in flavor and firmness, it is the berry for that section, as out of 13 varieties he fruited last year, Haverland was the most productive. Our first reports about the Carrie Silvers were made during the season of 1896. The plants were sent to us by Jos. H. Black, Son & Co., Hightstown, N. J., during September, 1895. The berry, the first season, reminded us of Parker Earle in shape. During the past two seasons, the shape has been from round to broadly heart-shaped and regular. We regard it as, in all respects, better than Haverland, the flesh firmer, the color brighter and the size larger. Both are pistillate, ripening in midseason. The Carrie Silvers is exceedingly productive, also hardy and vigorous."

Stella. A seedling of Bubach and Sharpless was crossed with Gandy. All of these varieties are exceptionally large berries but Stella surpasses them all in this respect and combines with size the exceptional vigor and health of the plant of Sharpless, productiveness of Bubach and firmness of Gandy.

Plants exceedingly robust and healthy: flower, imperfect: enormously productive: berries very large, bright red fine quality and very firm. Ripens late. Report of July 16, 1898, says:

"Stella was at its best June 17. It is unusually productive, form large to very large, varying from round to broadly heart-shaped and irregular. Scarlet color, firm, red flesh of mild quality."

Reba. A seedling of Bubach and Chas. Downing crossed by Gandy. The size and immense productiveness of this berry will particularly please the market gardener and color and quality is all that could be desired for home use.

Plant vigorous, hardy and long lived. One of the most productive varieties that we have ever fruited; flower imperfect; fruit large to very large, bright red, good quality, firm. Midseason to late.

Report of Rural New Yorker of July 16, 1898, says:

"June 13, 1898, Ripening freely, vines continue to be vigorous and productive. June 17: Height of season. This season, it has been one of our most productive varieties. It is now laden with fruit, ripe and green, size from large to largest; nearly round, crimson color, fair quality. It is a hardy, long-lived variety."

Robbie. This variety was produced by crossing with Gandy, a seedling of Shusters Gem and Kentucky. Shusters Gem, being a seedling of Crescent and Sharpless, combined the cardinal virtues of these varieties in strong robust plants, berries of great beauty, large size and wonderful productiveness, and for these reasons it was selected and all through its seedlings of both crosses it shows these points of merit.

Robbie is a strong plant exceedingly vigorous, healthy and productive. Berries large, round, bright red, firm and of exceptionally fine quality. Ripens very late.

Report of Rural New Yorker of June 16. 1898, says: July 17:

"Beginning to ripen. Vines highly vigorous and clean, very productive, good quality, heart shaped, generally regular, large to very large, color between crimson and scarlet, solid, pink flesh, peduncles strong. It is a valuable late variety."

Nettie. A seedling of Bubach and Yale was crossed with Sharpless. The best of these seedlings were again crossed with Gandy and among them was found the Nettie, the largest strawberry that we have ever fruited, it combines with this valuable quality, the productiveness of Bubach, and the vigor of plant so prominent in Sharpless.

Plant and foliage exceptionally strong, vigorous and healthy: flower imperfect: enormously productive: berries very large, bright red, exquisitely quality. Ripens very late.

Report of the Rural New Yorker, August, 1898:

"This proves our best late variety of this season's trials. Berries from large to very large, and vines laden; color between crimson and scarlet, medium firmness and quality; shape broadly conical and quite regular. June 25 vines still thrifty and bearing many berries both green and ripe."

The price for each of the above varieties is 50c per doz.; \$1.50 per 100.

SPECIAL OFFER BY MAIL.

No. 1.	30 plants, 6 each of the five pedigree varieties,	\$1.00
No. 2.	66 plants, 12 each of the five pedigree varieties, and six Senator Dunlaps,	2.00

PREMIUM OFFER.

On all orders for plants received before May 1, with from \$2.00 to \$6.00 enclosed, I will give 6 plants of any one kind of Black's Pedigree Seedlings (your choice), and if your order for plants exceeds \$6.00, I will give 12 plants of any one variety—your choice.

Gibson (S). Originated by John H. Gibson, Marlborough, N. Y.; introduced by C. H. Baildon of the same place, who describes it as one of the best shipping berries, being very firm, brilliant in color, size very large, and holding its size well to the end of the season.

The New York Farmer says of it:

"Seen on the vines it was a beautiful sight, every berry was like its neighbor, a bright crimson in color, symmetrical and uniform in shape. The vines heavily; very heavily loaded with fruit; it seems enormously productive."

Mr. George T. Howell, the well-known fruit specialist, wrote of it in the Country Gentlemen:

"Mr J. H. Gilson showed a superb berry in the Gibson."

At the Mineola Long Island fair it took first prize for best two quarts, and for the ten heaviest berries. Not fruited here, but the plants are extra vigorous, making a plenty of large stocky plants, dark green foliage.

25c per doz. ; 50c per 100 ; \$4.00 per 1,000.

Senator Dunlap (S). Not fruited here. A rank, vigorous grower of the Crescent type. I shall give below, Mr. Crawford's—the noted Ohio specialists—description of it. Also assistant Prof. J. C. Blair's, of the Illinois University.

This variety was originated several years ago by Rev. J. R. Reasoner, of Illinois. Its originator is a man of very high standing in Illinois horticultural circles as a student of fruit culture and one whose opinion on new varieties is sound. This variety was the result not of chance but of twelve years of systematic effort to combine all the good points possible in one strawberry. Mr. Reasoner has fruited it for six years with twenty or more standard varieties, whose superior it has always proven itself to be. Last summer it was named after the Hon. Henry M. Dunlap, President of the Illinois State Horticultural Society, whose letter appears below. We have fruited it in a small way and have found no weak point in it. Its strongest point is its vigor of growth. It is probably as nearly drouth-proof as any variety ever offered. During a spell of unusually hot, dry weather last August, it continued, on the originator's grounds, to grow and make plants, while some varieties succumbed and even trees died. Attached to some plants received by us from Illinois in very trying weather last summer, were a number of runners. We made some cuttings and planted them with as good results as are customary from

runners cut from plants in the field and not allowed to dry for a minute. The fruit is beautiful. The berries are as uniform in shape as if cast in a mould. Mr. Reasoner says he has never seen a cockscombed, double or misshapen berry of this variety. It is large but not the largest. For general market purposes, it will prove all in this direction that is wanted, but it is not a Wm. Belt nor a Nick Ohmer. For a general description we would refer to the letters of Professors Burrill and Blair given below. We believe this berry is an acquisition of the most valuable kind, and we congratulate ourselves upon being allowed to introduce it. The testimonials that could be given are numerous, but we present only a few, which we consider sufficient, as they are from those who by acquaintance with the variety and by special training are most competent to judge it fairly.

MR. J. R. REASONER, Seymour, Ills.

URBANA, ILLINOIS, July 22, 1899.

MY DEAR SIR:—I have carefully studied your No. 1 (Senator Dunlap) strawberry during the past three seasons, and have compared it with eighty-two other varieties grown on the Station grounds, and do not hesitate to say that it has greater merit than any other berry with which I am familiar. The plants are exceedingly vigorous, with clean healthy foliage which has no tendency to rust. The berries are very large, roundish conical, regular, with a slight neck. In color they are glossy crimson, with the meat firm and solid, deep crimson throughout, and good in quality. It is a wonderfully productive strawberry.

Altogether your No. 1 is the most attractive strawberry I know of, and I predict a promising future for it.

Yours very truly,

J. C. BLAIR, Asst. Professor of Horticulture.

35c per doz. ; \$1.00 per 100 ; \$6.00 per 1,000.

Bennett's Seedlings (P). The plant is a joy, to see, clean, strong, bright, deep rooting and free from spots. It is exceedingly productive, ripens its first berries earlier than the Warfield, and bears as late as the Gandy. Its season has extended over five weeks. It is pistillate and, if properly fertilized every blossom is followed by a berry. It has succeeded best when grown near a very early and a very late staminate variety. In size it is among the largest, excelling the Warfield at any time during the season. Unlike most large varieties the first specimens are never seamed or cockscombed. Its form is short conical, not as blunt as the Clyde or Brandyvine, nor as long as the Haverland. It has a smooth surface, the seeds being neither raised or sunken. The color is "the best there is," bright scarlet when first ripe, to dark red if left unpicked four or five days later. It has remained on the plant a week after it was ripe, and was then marketed. In firmness it is probably not excelled. The calyx is of medium size, always green and healthy, and not easily detached in picking. Finally, the quality is good, much better than the average. For an all around, general purpose berry it is likely to be one of the very best.

50c. per doz. ; \$2.50 per 100.

Gladstone (S) Not fruited here. Very large stocky plants with medium green foliage, no healthier plants on my place. The originator says that it must command the attention of the small fruit growers of the world. As early as Michel's Early, as large as Sharpless and not excelled by any strawberry grown. The Editor of the Rural New Yorker who saw it growing on home grounds, says, "It is a color bearer or signs fail."

25c. per doz. ; 40c. per 100 ; \$3.00 per 1,000.

Nick Ohmer (S). Originated by J. H. Beaver, who is considered the most successful amateur fruit grower of Ohio, who says "I have seventy varieties fruiting on my place and this is superior to any of them." The fruit is very large, quite regular in shape, dark crimson color and very firm. The plants are good growers, a fancy berry for private garden.

25c per doz. ; 40c per 100 ; \$3.00 per 1,000.

Glen Mary (S). Medium to late in ripening. An extra strong grower making a lot of very large plants with dark green foliage, not a spot of rust on them. It is well to set some staminate kind near them for its blossoms are nearly pistillate. The last season it did extra well, the berries coloring up well, a dark rich crimson color, extra large and one of the most productive varieties that I ever fruited. Holds its size well to the end of the season.

25c per doz. ; 40c per 100 ; \$3.00 per 1,000.

Seaford (P). Medium early. A good strong grower, large, long, dark crimson colored berry. As productive as Bubach or Brandywine, firmer than Bubach and better color for market. I shall set it instead of the latter for it is a much better grower and much firmer and ripens about the same time.

25c per doz. ; 40c per 100 ; \$2.75 per 1,000.

Sample (P). After another years fruiting I still consider it one of the best varieties ever introduced, a good grower, a good seller, and the most productive berry on my place. Of the 170 varieties tested at the mass. Experiment Station on both light and heavy soil it was one of the most productive and best for general cultivation. Medium to late, in ripening, large, good form, good quality, bright glossy red color, coloring all over at once, a grand market and family berry.

25c per doz. ; 50c per 100 ; 3.00 per 1,000.

Brandywine (S). Late to very late in ripening. A very vigorous grower with dark green foliage, dark crimson colored berries, fine flavored, and very productive; of the 170 varieties tested at the Mass. Experiment Station in 1899. On heavy soil and for general cultivation it was classed as one of the best and most productive.

25c per doz. ; 40c per 100 ; \$2.75 per 1,000.

Repeater (S). An improved Lovett, and as the latter is one of the best standard varieties no more need be said, for it is nearly identical in growth, size, shape and color of fruit. A good one to pollenize pistillate varieties with.

25c per doz. ; 40c per 100 ; \$2.50 per 1,000.

Clyde (S). Give it the right kind of soil and it is one of the most productive varieties; also one of the largest, sets more fruit than any other kind. A good grower of large, stocky plants, light green foliage, and light colored berries. All should try it, if your soil suits it you have a bonanza.

25c per doz. ; 40c per 100 ; \$2.75 per 1,000.

Ideal (S). Another good market berry. On heavy soil it yielded at the rate of 8000 quarts per acre. Very attractive, fine form and color, mid-season in ripening, vigorous grower.

25c per doz. ; 50c per 100 ; \$3.00 per 1,000.

Lovett (S). One of the standard varieties. Good as a pollinizer.

25c per doz. ; 40c per 100 ; \$2.50 per 1,000.

Ridgeway (S). Medium to late in ripening. Plants large and stocky, possessing the ability to make a large number of strong, healthy plants. Fruit nearly round, very large when plants are not crowded, color, glossy red, a color that takes well in market, very productive.

25c per doz. ; 50c per 100 ; \$3.00 per 1,000.

Pride of Cumberland (S).

25c per doz. ; 40c per 100 ; \$2.50 per 1,000.

MIXED PLANTS.

Where blocks of different kinds come together, the plants that grow in the space are so mixed that they are not dug to fill orders for named varieties ; these are admirably adapted for planting for home use. The perfect and imperfect kinds are brought close together and the fertilization will be more perfect, producing large crops of perfect fruit.

I can furnish any of the following mixtures, sample with Brandywine, Clyde, Nick Ohmer, or Gladstone, Gibson ; and Glen Mary. Ridgeway and Glen Mary, Clyde and Seaford, Bubach with Beverly and Lovett, Ideal with Beverly and Bubach.

25c per doz. ; 35c per 100 ; \$2.00 per 1,000.

MR. B. KING,

TOLLAND CO., CONN.

DEAR SIR :—Plants came to hand in perfect condition. I cannot refrain from saying that they are the best strawberry plants I ever saw, roots long, abundant and thrifty looking. Please accept many thanks for such nice plants.

Respectfully, E. H. COOK

MR. B. KING,

LINCOLN CO., ME.

DEAR SIR :—The strawberry plants that you sent me have done finely every one is growing.

L. MURRAY.

MR. B. KING,

WORCESTER CO., MASS.

DEAR SIR :—The plants are all you claimed them to be, first class in every respect, the best I ever had. Thanks for extras. I called in some of the berry growers of the neighborhood to see the plants ; they all agree with me that they are very fine.

WM. J. WYETH.

MR. B. KING,

WALPOLE, MASS.

DEAR SIR :—Received the plants in good condition and I am very much pleased with them, also with the care with which they were packed.

Yours truly,

W. F. WARE.

MR. B. KING,

KEENE, N. H.

DEAR SIR :—The plants I had of you proved to be more than first class and true to name. I raised a very large crop from them of the best berries ever grown in Keene.

L. N. FOSTER.